TURNING POINTS of HISTORY

Malta to Istanbul aboard the Variety Voyager
JUNE 1–13, 2016

featuring
DENIS FEENEY
Giger Professor of Classics
DEAR PRINCETONIAN,

Along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, over thousands of years stretching back to antiquity, civilizations have met and mingled, religious and political views have been championed and enforced, trade routes have been coveted and claimed, and imperial political and military power struggles have fashioned and refashioned the map time and time again. Conceived in part by Denis Feeney, Princeton’s Giger Professor of Latin, Professor of Classics, and the Chair of the Council of the Humanities, this ten-night springtime cruise will explore the sites and events that “have cumulatively left their mark on the geopolitical formations of the Mediterranean that we recognize today.”

Concentrating on “three major sites of conflict where the fate of empires has been decided,” the program begins in the key area of the Mediterranean on the Malta/Sicily axis, central to the conflict between the Ottoman Empire and Christendom as well as to events that catapulted Rome ahead of the Athenian Empire as the major power of the Western Mediterranean. On the western shoreline of modern Greece, consider events that ensured the Roman Empire’s place as a western empire as well as measures that thwarted the Ottoman Empire’s chances of expanding and ultimately led to an independent Greece. Finally, visit the Dardanelles and the site of Troy, where the first great clash between West and East was commemorated by Homer, ending in the crossroads city of Istanbul.

This cruise is co-sponsored by Yale and Smith, and the group’s chartered vessel, Variety Voyager, has accommodations for only 60 guests. To ensure your place on this in-depth program, please contact the Princeton Journeys team at (609) 258-8686 or journeys@princeton.edu today.

With kindest regards,

Leslie J. Rowley S95
Executive Manager, Princeton Journeys
Office of the Alumni Association
Princeton University

DENIS FEENEY, is Giger Professor of Latin, Professor of Classics, and Chairman of the Council of the Humanities at Princeton. Educated at Auckland University and Oxford, where he obtained a doctorate in 1982, he joined the Princeton faculty in 2000. As a classicist, he teaches and publishes on Latin literature and on Roman culture more broadly, with a focus on Roman religion and time. In concert with his former doctoral student, Kirk Freudenberg, also a lecturer on this program, Professor Feeney has enthusiastically shaped this itinerary to focus on the turning points in history concentrated in the Mediterranean, relating them through the stories of the ancients.
KirK FreuDenburg, Professor of Classics at Yale and chair of that department, was educated at Valparaiso University, Washington University in St. Louis, and the University of Wisconsin, where he wrote his PhD dissertation under the direction of Denis Feeney, a co-lecturer on this program. His research has focused on the social life of Roman letters and its practical implementation in poetic forms, especially satire. Professor Freudenburg is currently editing a volume of the Roman poet Horace’s satires, which explore the secrets of human happiness and literary perfection.

Mlada Bukovansky, Professor of Government at Smith College, teaches courses in international relations, European politics, corruption, humanitarianism, international organizations, and international political economy. Her overall research focus is on the evolving norms and institutions that govern world politics. She is the co-author of Special Responsibilities: Global Problems and American Power (Cambridge University Press) and the author of numerous scholarly articles and book chapters on subjects ranging from agricultural trade to international ethics. Professor Bukovansky is especially interested in the politics and ethics of European responses to current refugee crises.
Wednesday & Thursday, June 1 & 2
HOME = VALETTA, MALTA
Depart home on an overnight flight to Valletta. Upon arrival, check in to the Excelsior Hotel. Enjoy a welcome orientation, reception, and dinner this evening at the hotel.
EXCELSIOR HOTEL (R,D)

Friday, June 3
VALETTA (EMBARK)
Valletta, the capital of Malta and a UNESCO World Heritage site, was built by the Knights Hospitaller Order of St. John to defend against the Ottomans in the 16th century. Today, visit the baroque Co-Cathedral to see the knights’ inlaid tombs; the Baptistry’s masterpiece by Caravaggio, The Beheading of St. John the Baptist; and Fort St. Elmo, which withstood a 28-day assault by the Ottomans before falling during the Great Siege of Malta in 1565. Cross the harbor to Vittoriosa (Birgu) to explore the old fortified city that also played a crucial role in the Great Siege. Embark Variety Voyager in the late afternoon and gather for the captain’s welcome reception and dinner.
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Saturday, June 4
SIRACUSA, SICILY
Once a powerful threat to the hegemony of Athens, Siracusa, a UNESCO World Heritage site, was founded around 734 B.C. by Greek Corinthians and subsequently ruled by Romans, Saracens, Byzantines, Normans, and Ottomans. Take an excursion to the Archaeological Park’s amphitheater and Ear of Dionysius limestone cave. On the island of Ortigia, which separates Siracusa’s two harbors, visit the 6th-century B.C. Temple of Apollo, the cathedral, and the Arethusa Fountain. Enjoy a private wine tasting, as well as a private cheese-making lesson and tasting.
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Sunday, June 5
AT SEA
Relax on board ship during a full day at sea, with time to enjoy presentations by the lecture team.
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Monday, June 6
PREVEZA, GREECE
This morning disembark the ship in Preveza to delve into the historic Battle of Actium, the decisive naval engagement between Octavian and the combined forces of Mark Antony and Cleopatra in 31 B.C. Climb the promontory overlooking the battle site where the Roman navy’s smaller and more nimble ships defeated Antony’s 500 heavy galleys and sent Queen Cleopatra and her paramour scurrying for Alexandria and ignominy. Also explore the archaeological treasures from Roman and Early Christian times at the new Nikopolis Museum.
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Tuesday, June 7
PYLOS
Pylos, also known by its Italian name, Navarino, is the site of a decisive battle during the Greek War of Independence in 1827. In nearby Methoni, visit the castle, an impressive fortress separated from the mainland by a deep moat, where the Crusaders stopped en route from Venice to the Holy Land.
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Wednesday, June 8
DELOS
Spend the morning on the island of Delos, which is near the center of the Cyclades archipelago and is one of the most important mythological, historical, and archaeological sites in Greece. Designated in Greek mythology as the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, Delos is a UNESCO World Heritage site, exceptionally rich in monuments, temples, and statues. This evening enjoy time at leisure on Mykonos, which buzzes with a vibrant nightlife.
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L)
Thursday, June 9

ATHENS
Today is devoted to Athens. Visit the Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum, which opened in 2009. Because the museum is built over an extensive archaeological site, parts of the floor are transparent to allow visitors to view the ongoing excavations below. The top level of the museum sits at an angle to the lower levels to replicate the orientation of the ancient temple on the Acropolis. Lunch is on your own, with time to explore the historic Plaka District.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,D)

Friday, June 10

AT SEA
As the ship cruises to the Dardanelles, relax on board and enjoy the continuation of the lecture program.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Saturday, June 11

CANAKKALE, TURKEY (GALLIPOLI & TROY)
Dock in Canakkale, a seaport located at the narrowest point of the Hellespont (Dardanelles) Strait. Visit the battlefields and cemeteries at Gallipoli, where a brutal conflict took place between Allied and Ottoman forces during World War I and where Kemal Ataturk forged his reputation as a defender of the Turkish motherland. Then continue to the Bronze Age site of ancient Troy, where the Achaeans defeated the Trojans in the 12th century B.C. to avenge Paris’s kidnapping of Helen, Queen of Sparta—an event dramatically recounted in Homer’s Iliad. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Sunday, June 12

ISTANBUL
Discover the masterpieces of Old Istanbul (Sultanahmet), including many UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Hippodrome, center of Byzantine civic life; the splendid Sultan Ahmed Mosque, commonly called the Blue Mosque for its dazzling blue Iznik tiles; the breathtaking Hagia Sofia Basilica, the Eastern Roman Empire’s beacon of Christianity until, in 1453, Sultan Mehmet “The Conqueror” ended Byzantine reign in favor of the Ottomans; and Topkapi Palace and its lavishly decorated Imperial Harem, the primary residence of the Ottoman sultans for nearly 400 years. This evening celebrate your experience at the captain’s farewell reception and dinner. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Monday, June 13

ISTANBUL = HOME
Disembark the ship and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)
The yacht Variety Voyager, launched in 2012, is an intimate vessel with just 36 cabins, designed to host small exclusive charters. Cabins range in size from 129 to 292 sq. ft. and are comfortably furnished. They feature en suite facilities, individually controlled air-conditioning, and TV/DVD. Throughout the ship, guests enjoy unobstructed views of the sea and the ports visited, and the services of a friendly crew of 28. There are opportunities to dine both inside and al fresco, and complimentary beer and wine are served with lunch and dinner. Public areas include a partly shaded sundeck lounge bar, a library, and a mini-spa with massage room, sauna, steam room, and fitness equipment. There is an Internet Corner and access to 24-hour Wi-Fi in the lounge.

Program Rates, per person

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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>DOUBLE</th>
<th>SINGLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>C MARINA DECK</td>
<td>$8,995</td>
<td>$13,495</td>
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<tr>
<td>129–145 sq. ft. depending on location, twin portholes, twin beds or queen bed, shower.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARINA DECK &amp; RIVIERA DECK</td>
<td>$9,995</td>
<td>$14,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>145–216 sq. ft. depending on location, twin portholes (Marina Deck) or double windows (Riviera Deck), twin beds or queen bed (7 of the 11 cabins offer flexible bedding configuration), shower.</td>
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<td>A RIVIERA DECK</td>
<td>$10,995</td>
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<td>151–195 sq. ft. depending on location, double windows, twin beds or queen bed (9 of the 11 cabins offer flexible bedding configuration), shower.</td>
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<td>P HORIZONS DECK</td>
<td>$12,395</td>
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<tr>
<td>227–248 sq. ft. depending on location, double windows, twin beds or queen bed (all cabins offer flexible bedding configuration and 4 of the 7 include an extra sofa bed), shower.</td>
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<tr>
<td>O HORIZONS DECK</td>
<td>$13,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owner’s Suite 292 sq. ft., four windows, twin beds or queen bed (flexible bedding configuration), shower.</td>
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Air Arrangements
U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Round-trip economy-class airfare from New York to Valletta, Malta, with return from Istanbul, is approximately $1,400 per person as of June 2015 and is subject to change without notice. Information about making flight arrangements will be sent to all participants.

Program Rates Include
All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • All excursions as specified in the itinerary • Full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Individual or group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure days • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • Wine, beer, and soft drinks with group lunches and dinners and aboard Variety Voyager • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Professional tour manager

Fuel Costs
Program rates are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of brochure printing. While we will do everything possible to maintain the published rates, if fuel costs increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge. In that case, we will notify participants in advance of departure.

What to Expect
June is an excellent time for a Mediterranean cruise. Temperatures and humidity are moderate, rain infrequent, and seas are generally smooth. The pace of this tour is active and all participants should be in good health, physically fit, and capable of walking over rough terrain without assistance from tour staff. Daily programs involve walking of one to two miles, such as through archaeological sites, from coach drop-off points, in museums, and on city tours—sometimes on uneven terrain including dirt and cobble-stoned paths.
Please make your deposit check payable to Criterion Travel and mail to: Princeton Journeys, John Maclean House, P.O. Box 291, Princeton, New Jersey 08542-0291. Or fax credit card information to: (609) 258-5561. For more information, contact the Princeton Journeys staff at journeys@princeton.edu or (609) 258-8686.

CONTACT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

NAME #1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT)                      PRINCETON AFFILIATION

NAME #2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT)                      PRINCETON AFFILIATION

ADDRESS / CITY/STATE/ZIP

HOME PHONE                       BUSINESS PHONE

EMAIL

PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is a check for $ __________ ($1,000 per person, made payable to Criterion Travel) to hold _______ place(s) on Turning Points of History, OR

☐ Charge my deposit of $ __________ ($1,000 per person) to my
  VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD               DATE

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference: 1st ____________ 2nd ____________

Bed preference on ship: ☐ Twin beds joined ☐ Twin beds separate

Bed preference at hotel (not guaranteed): ☐ One bed ☐ Two Beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations.

☐ I plan to share accommodations with ________________________________

☐ I am willing to share with another participant (not guaranteed).

☐ I am a ☐ smoker / ☐ non-smoker.

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of February 2, 2016, I will pay the single rate.

☐ 1/We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated herein.

SIGNATURE               DATE

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LEGENDARY TROY / ISTANBUL’S TREASURES / FOUR UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS / HISTORICAL BATTLE ARENAS / ANCIENT ACROPOLIS